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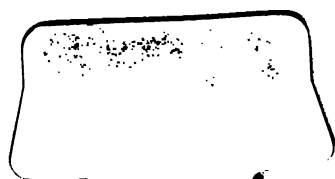
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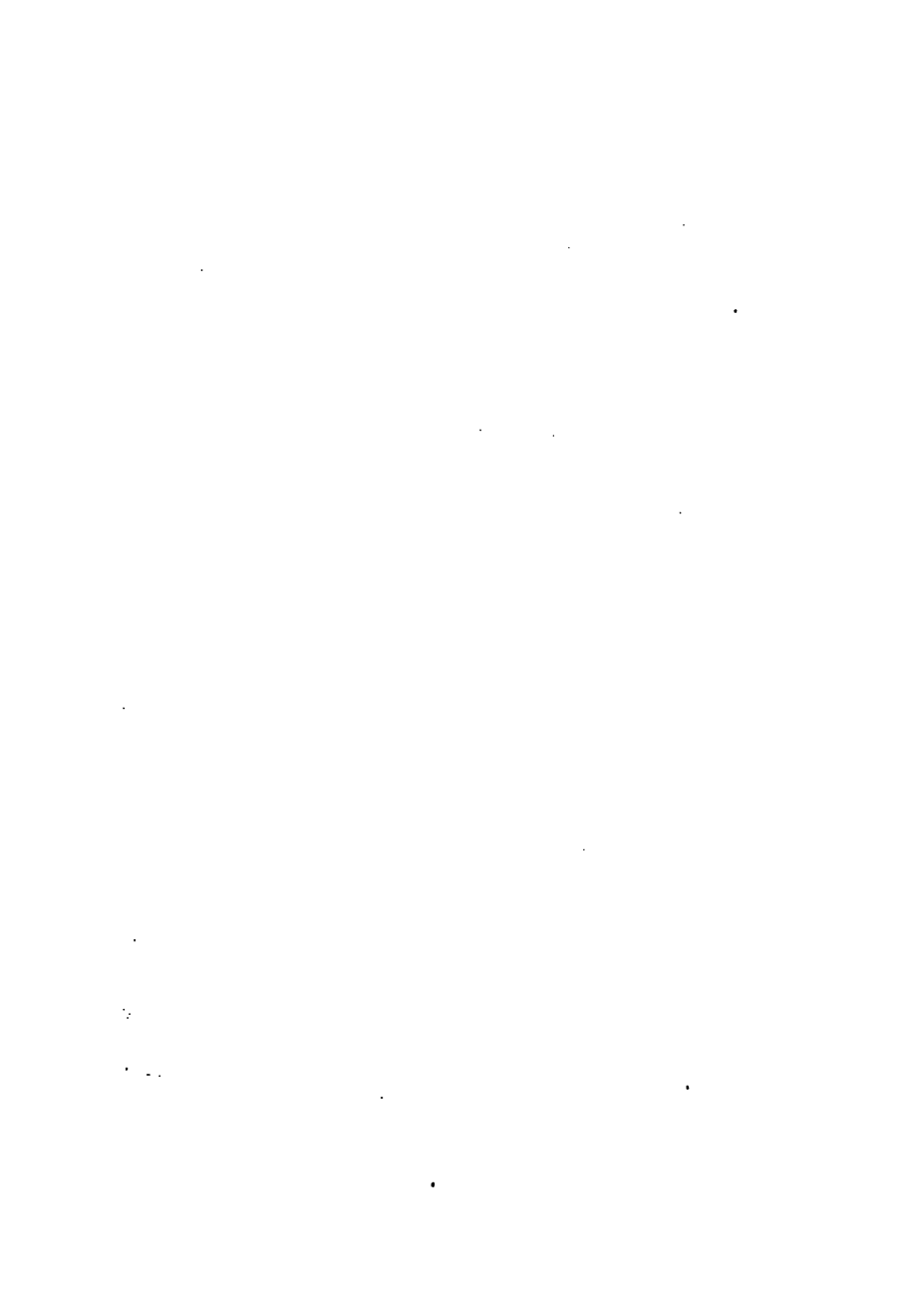
THE GRANVILLE SERIES

STANDARD  
READING BOOK  
No. II.

EIGHTPENCE









The Granville Series.

*READING*  
*BOOK.*

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SECOND STANDARD.

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# The Granville Series.

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## SECOND READING BOOK.

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### THE LITTLE BASKET-MAKER.

**neigh-bour**, a person who lives near another.

**anx-i-ous**, wished very much.

**sea-shore**, the land near the sea.

**pi-rates**, sea robbers.

**wil-low**, wands, branches of

the willow-tree which bend easily.

**is-land**, land with water all round it.

**rock**, a large mass of stone.

**chief man**, the leader, the head man.

1. There is a story told of two boys, Edward and Jacob, which I will tell you. Edward had very rich parents, and would not learn anything, but said that a rich boy could do without learning.

2. Jacob, the son of a poor neighbour, learned basket-making, and was so anxious to get on that he soon knew all about it.

3. One day Edward was standing on the sea-shore fishing, to pass away his time. Jacob had cut a great bundle of willow wands, and was going to carry them home.

4. All at once out sprang pirates on them, from the woods, carried both of them off to

their ship, and sailed away with them, to sell them as slaves.

5. Now the ship was caught in a storm, and driven on a rock, and all were drowned



All were drowned but the two boys.'

but the two boys, who soon found that the island was peopled by cruel black men.

6. Jacob thought that perhaps his trade *could get him favour*; so he drew out his

knife, cut a few willow wands, and began to plait a neat basket. Very soon the black men and the women and children came round, and looked on with wonder.

7. When the basket was ready, Jacob gave it to the chief man, and then they all wished to have others just the same, and made a fine hut for Jacob, shaded by fruit-trees, that he might work in it in quiet. They also promised to give him everything he wanted, if he made baskets for them.

8. They soon told Edward that he must make baskets too ; but as the poor boy had not learned, he could not do it, and they beat him : indeed, they would have killed him, if Jacob had not saved him ; but they made him give his velvet dress to Jacob, and put on Jacob's rough smock frock, and be his servant to bring the bundles of willows for him.

9. Many years passed and the chief of the island died. Jacob was now a man and had gained the love of the people, so they asked him to become their chief, to which he agreed.

10. The first thing he did was to get the people to allow Edward to go home. After some time he also returned to his own country laden with riches.

11. Edward had learnt a useful lesson, for, ever after, he was known to be a good and kind man to the poor, and was always willing

to help those who tried to earn their living by honest labour.

12. He never forgot that he owed his life and freedom to one who was only a poor basket-maker.

---

## ABOUT BOOKS.

**scribes**, writers.

**parch-ment**, the skin of a sheep or goat prepared for writing upon.

**types**, raised letters in metal used in printing.

**vol-ume**, a roll ; now means a book.

**print-ing press**, a machine for marking letters on paper.

**wasp**, a stinging insect, like a bee.

1. I will tell you how people used to make books before they learned how to print. They had to write them. The writers were called *Scribes*, and they wrote mostly on the dried skins of sheep or goats, called parchment. When they had finished they rolled up the parchment and called it a *volume*.

2. But about four hundred years ago, a clever man, named Caxton, thought that if he could cut out the letters on a page made of wood, he could stamp them on paper, and make a book far faster than any one could write it with a pen, and also far cheaper.

3. He tried this for a time, and then thought—‘If I could cut out each letter by itself in wood, then the same letters would do *over and over again* to make many words.’

4. So he made types, and when he had put them into words, and stamped them on paper by a printing press, that was printing, as we have it now.

5. He soon learned to make types of lead,



Caxton's Printing Press in Westminster Abbey.

very much as they are made now. The paper of which this book is made was once a cotton rag, but it was taken to a paper-mill, and there made into paper.

6. Do you know that wasps make paper

with their mouths, and form their nests of it? They bite off bits of plants and chew them till they turn to paper.

---

## THE PEACHES.

**peach-es**, beautiful fruit.  
**ac-count**, to tell all about a thing.  
**a-void**, to shun, to keep away from.

**fu-ture**, the time to come.  
**grasp-ing**, trying to get all for self.  
**self-ish**, wishing only to please ourselves.

1. One day a man who had been to market brought home five peaches. His four sons met him on his return, and he said, 'There, lads, I have brought a peach for each of you, and one for your mother.' They took the fruit with many thanks.

2. At night, before they went to bed, the father said, 'Well, boys, I should like to know how you liked the peaches, and what you did with them. Now let one speak at a time, and each shall give me his account.'

3. The eldest said, 'I ate mine, and found it very full of juice. I have put by the stone till the spring, when I mean to plant it, and hope to see a young peach-tree grow up.'

4. 'That's right,' said his father, 'never waste anything. It is right to think of the *future*.'

5. The youngest then said, 'I ate mine, and threw the stone away, and mother gave me half hers. It was so nice; it melted in my mouth.'

6. 'Well,' said his father, 'you are a little boy, and know no better; but you should not have been so hasty in eating the peach, and throwing away the stone.'

7. The next boy said, 'I picked up his stone and ate the kernel, and sold my peach for as much as will buy me three peaches next market day.'

8. The father looked grave, and said, 'It is right to think of the future, but you have acted in a way likely to lead to selfish habits. Avoid, my boy, a greedy, grasping spirit.'

9. The other boy said, 'I gave mine to lame George, who is ill with fever, and his friends are too poor to buy nice things for him. The doctor said ripe fruit would do him good.'

10. The other three felt this one had made the best use of his peach, and the tears of joy in his mother's eyes were better to him than a sack full of fruit.

---



## THE CROW AND THE FOX.

a-mazed, surprised.  
fig-ure, form.  
flat-ter-ing, false praise.

es-teem-ed, much valued  
craf-ty, sly, cunning.  
van-i-ty, empty pride. !

1. A crow was sitting on the branch of a tree. The crow had taken a piece of cheese out of a cottage window. She had gone into a tree to eat it.

2. A fox passing, chanced to see the crow, and the cheese in her mouth. He wished very much to get the cheese for himself. The fox knew that the crow loved praise.

3. So he went to the foot of the tree and said to the crow, 'I am quite amazed at your beauty, and as to your shape and figure, I have never seen anything so fine.'

The crow listened—

4. 'I am sure,' he went on to say, 'that so lovely a bird must have a very fine voice. I have never been so happy as to hear it. If you can sing, you are the first bird in the world.'

5. The crow was excited by such flattering words. In great delight she made ready to give the fox a sample of her singing.

6. The fox saw that he was making way, and next told her that even a very few notes would be esteemed a great favour.

7. The crow's head was quite turned by

this repeated praise. She cleared her throat, and then opened her mouth to sing, and of course the moment she did this, the cheese fell out of it.



'I am amazed at your beauty.'

8. The crafty fox had got all he wanted. He caught the cheese as it fell, laughed, and ran off with it. The silly crow was robbed of her cheese, not by the fox, but by her own vanity.

## THE MILL-WHEEL.

1. Round and round it goes !  
As fast the water flows ;



The dripping, dropping, rolling wheel,  
That turns the noisy, dusty mill ;  
Round and round it goes.

2. Turning all the day,  
It never stops to play,  
The dripping, dropping, rolling wheel,  
But keeps on grinding golden meal,  
Turning all the day.
  3. Sparkling in the sun,  
The merry waters run,  
Upon the foaming, flashing wheel,  
That laughs aloud, but worketh still,  
Sparkling in the sun.
- 

## THE SLAVE AND THE LION.

**pa-gans**, people who are not  
Christians.  
**fawn-ed**, fondled.

**seize**, to catch hold of.  
**Ro-mans**, the people of Rome,  
the chief town of Italy.

1. A slave ran away from Rome when the Romans were pagans. On his way he had to cross a desert to get to his home.

2. One day, just as he had gone into a cave, he heard the roar of a lion, and was in great fear that he should be eaten up. But the lion came limping to him, and put his wounded paw upon the man's knee.

3. The slave, on looking at the paw, saw that it was much swelled, and that it had a big sharp thorn in it. He then drew out the thorn as softly as he could.

4. The lion bore the pain quietly, and when his paw was easy, he licked the man's hands, and fawned on him like a dog. The man



lived there some days, for he was weak and tired.

5. At length, wandering through the woods,

he met with a band of soldiers sent out to seize him, and was by them taken prisoner, and led back to his master.

6. For this crime of running away he was to be killed by wild beasts. A lion that had been lately caught, and had not been fed for some days, was let loose upon him.

7. The lion sprang out with a loud roar ; but when he saw the man, he crept softly up to him, and licked him, and then skipped about him.

8. It was the same lion the man had met with in the desert. The slave was set free. The lion was given to him ; and the grateful beast would follow him through the streets of Rome like a dog.

---

## THE SOLDIER AND HIS HORSE.

**an-i-mal**, a being that lives,  
moves, and feels.  
**beau-ti-ful**, fair, pleasing.

**friend**, one we love.  
**har-ness**, the leather straps,  
&c., used for horses.

1. A poor old soldier who had been in the Life-Guards was one day passing along a street in a large town. All at once he was seen to stop, and look for some time at an old cab-horse on the other side of the street.

2. 'I know him ! I know him !' cried he, as he ran across the street. 'He is my own old horse. Dear old fellow ! How glad I am to see you again !'

3. The horse seemed to know the voice. He laid back his ears, and rubbed his nose against the hand that stroked him so kindly.

4. After a few moments, the poor soldier put his hand in his pocket; and as he did so, he said, 'Yes, if I have one, he shall have it, though it were my last penny! Yes, it is not much, but it will buy him a feed of corn, and I'll treat him to it, that I will!'

5. Away he went to bring it; and in a few minutes he came back with the corn, and stood kindly feeding the horse with his own hand.

6. After staying beside him for some time, he asked where his stable was, that he might go and see him some other day. Before going away he shook hands with the cabman and said to him, 'Be good to him, the dear poor old fellow, and use him well. He is as fine an animal as ever was in harness.'

7. It was a beautiful sight; and it was no wonder that some little boys who stood near cried out, 'Hurrah!' when they saw the poor soldier's kindness to his old friend.

8. It was a lesson on kindness to animals which they were not likely soon to forget. He then went on his way, after having parted with what, no doubt, was his last penny. From the look of the man's kind face I am sure that as often as he could he went to see *his old friend*, the horse.

## ALL THINGS BRIGHT AND BEAUTIFUL.

**beau-ti-ful**, pretty, fair to the  
eye.

**won-der-ful**, strange.

**glow-ing**, brightness of colour.

**e-state**, position in life.

**rush-es**, plants with round  
stems and no leaves, grow-  
ing on wet ground.

1. ALL things bright and beautiful,  
All creatures great and small,  
All things wise and wonderful ;  
The Lord God made them all.
2. Each little flower that opens,  
Each little bird that sings,  
He made their glowing colours,  
He made their tiny wings.
3. The rich man in his castle,  
The poor man at his gate,  
God made them, high or lowly,  
And ordered their estate.
4. The purple-headed mountain,  
The river running by,  
The sunset, and the morning  
That brightens up the sky,
5. The cold wind in the winter,  
The pleasant summer sun,



The ripe fruits in the garden,  
He made them every one.

6. The tall trees in the greenwood,  
The meadows where we play,  
The rushes by the water,  
We gather every day ;—
7. He gave us eyes to see them,  
And lips that we might tell  
How great is God Almighty  
Who has made all things well.
- 

## THE FOX AND THE STORK.

shal-low, not deep.  
bill, beak of a bird.

| sat-is-fy, to have enough.  
lap-ped, licked up.

1. One day the fox asked the stork to dinner. The fox is a funny fellow, and he wished to play a trick on the stork. So when the stork came, she found nothing on the table but soup, in wide shallow dishes.

2. She could only dip in the end of her long bill, and could not satisfy her hunger. The fox lapped it up very quickly, now and then asking the stork how she liked her dinner, hoping that it was to her mind, but saying that he was sorry to see her eat so little.

3. The stork knew that he was making fun of her ; but she made no remark. Some days after, the stork, in her turn, asked the fox to dine with her. Sly as he was, he did not expect to be paid back in his own coin ; so he went.

4. When dinner was served, he was much vexed to see nothing but some meat, cut very



small, and placed in a big bottle, the neck of which was very long and very narrow.

5. The stork, putting in her long bill, could help herself to plenty of it ; but the fox could only lick the outside of the bottle. The fox asked if that was all the dinner.

6. 'Oh yes,' said the stork ; 'I am glad to see you are so hungry ; I hope you will make

as good a dinner at my table as I did at yours the other day.' The fox felt angry at first; but had at last to own that he had been rightly dealt with.

7. He felt that, if he did not like to have a joke played upon himself, he should not have played one upon the stork.

We should never do to another what we would not like another to do to us.

If a joke you cannot take,  
Then, a joke you should not make.'

---

## LOVE ONE ANOTHER.

mar, to spoil, to destroy.  
of-fence, displeasure.

| strive, to try very hard  
wrath, anger, ill-temper.

1. Children, do you love each other?  
Are you always kind and true?  
Do you always do to others  
As you'd have them do to you?
2. Are you gentle to each other?  
Are you careful, day by day,  
Not to give offence by actions,  
Or by anything you say?
3. Little children, love each other,  
Never give another pain;  
If your sister speak in anger,  
Answer not in wrath again.

4. Be not selfish to each other,  
Never mar another's rest ;



Strive to make each other happy,  
And you will yourselves be blest.

## FAMILY UNION.

quar-rel, to fight, to dispute.

val-ue, worth much.

u-ni-on, harmony, agreeing  
with one another.

af-fec-tion, love.

dis-cord, disagreements, quar-  
rels.

con-quer, to overpower.

1. An old man had five sons, who very often used to quarrel with each other, and, by so doing, made the old man very unhappy.

2. He tried all the means in his power to make them live in peace, but in vain; at last he thought of a plan to teach them the value of union.

3. One day he sat himself down at his cottage door, and called all his sons before him. He then ordered a bundle of sticks to be brought to him, which he had strongly bound together by cords.

4. He then called to the eldest to break it. The eldest tried to do so, but could not; he then called to the next, and then to each of the other brothers, but none of them could break the bundle.

5. The old man then told one of his sons to untie the bundle, and taking one of the sticks singly, he gave it to a little child playing at the door; the child broke it in an instant. He then gave the child another stick, and *another, till all were broken.*

6. The father then turned to his sons, and said, 'Oh, my sons, behold the power of union. If you keep yourselves bound with one heart and one mind, in the strong ties of affection, nothing will have the power to do you harm ; but if discord divide you, the weakest of your enemies will be able to conquer you.'

---

## THE STAG AT THE STREAM.

**hunts-man**, one who searches  
for wild animals.  
**seize**, to take hold of.

**thick-et**, a number of trees  
growing close together.  
**strug-gles**, tries hard.

1. A stag one day came to a stream of water to drink. The water was so smooth that it was like a looking-glass.

For a time he stood looking at himself from head to foot. As he looked he thought—

2. 'Ah, what a fine pair of horns I have—how they set off my head ! If the rest of my body were as good, I would be as fine as any one I know ; but these legs of mine are so thin, I really feel ashamed of them.

3. 'People may say what they like about my running, but I would almost as soon have no legs as such things as these.'

4. Whilst he is thus speaking to himself he starts. 'What is that I hear ?' It is a *hunts-man's horn*, horses and hounds are after him.

5. Away he runs as fast as his legs will carry him, and soon leaves horses and hounds far behind. But, alas! his fine horns get caught in a thicket. In vain he struggles to get free, they hold him fast till the dogs come and seize him.



'What a fine pair of horns I have.'

6. As he was dying, he could not help saying to himself, 'Ah, these beautiful horns have been my death. But for them, my plain legs would have saved my life.'

## LITTLE WHITE LILY.

1. Little white Lily sat  
by a stone,  
Drooping and waiting  
till the sun shone.  
Little white Lily sun-  
shine has fed ;  
Little white Lily is  
lifting her head.

2. Little white Lily  
droopeth with pain,  
Waiting and waiting  
for the wet rain.  
Lily white Lily hold-  
eth her cup ;  
Rain is fast falling  
and filling it up.

3. Little white Lily  
smells very sweet,  
On her head sunshine,  
rain at her feet.  
Thanks to the sun-  
shine, thanks to the  
rain !  
Little white Lily is  
happy again.





## FLIES AND SPIDERS.

crea-ture, whatever has been created.	foes, enemies, those who fight against each other.
sub-ject, the thing talked about.	sol-di-er, one who fights for pay.

1. Some children once went with their grandmother to see a spider's web ; they thought it a very strange thing, and they talked a good deal about it, though they could not see the use of such things, nor why there should be spiders at all.

2. Their grandmother said, 'I cannot tell you just now all the reasons why God made all the creatures that we see around us, but I shall tell you a pretty story, which may at least help us to think on the subject.'

3. A young prince used often to wonder why God had made flies and spiders, as he could not see what use they were to men, and if he had had the power he would have killed them all. One day, after a great battle, this prince was forced to hide in a wood.

4. He lay down beneath a tree and fell asleep. A soldier, who was one of his foes, passing by, saw him, and drew near to kill him. Just then a fly stung the prince on his lip and woke him. Seeing his danger, he sprang to his feet, and soon made the soldier run off.

5. *That same night the prince again hid*

himself in a cave in the wood, and in the night a spider wove his web across the mouth of the cave. Two soldiers, who were looking for the



A Spider and its Web.

prince, passed the cave in the morning, and the prince heard them speaking.

6. 'Look,' said one of them, 'he is hidden

in this cave.' 'No,' said the other, 'that cannot be, for if he had gone in there, he would have brushed down the spider's web at the mouth of the cave.'

7. When they had gone away, the prince raised his hands and his eyes to heaven, and thanked God for having first saved his life by means of a fly, and again by a spider. He now saw that flies and spiders could be of some use to men.

---

## GOD'S CARE OF ANIMALS.

se-cure, safe.

tip-toe, on the points of the  
toes.

fright-en, to make afraid.

bus-y, active, at work.

in-sect, a small animal like a  
fly.

fetch-ing, bringing.

1. I have found a little nest,  
Built this year by a red-breast ;  
With great care the nest is made,  
In it little eggs are laid.
2. Now and then upon tip-toe,  
Softly to the nest I go ;  
And the old bird does not stir,  
For I do not frighten her.
3. Soon the eggs will broken be,  
And the little birds set free ;  
I shall stand the trees among,  
*See the old birds feed their young.*

4. Oh! how busy they will be,  
Fetching food for one, two, three,  
Little birds secure from harm  
In the nest so soft and warm.



'I have found a little nest.'

5. Beast and bird, and insect small,  
Mother says, God made them all;  
Things that walk, and creep, and fly,  
On the earth, and in the sky.

6. And the God who made them all,  
Sees if but a sparrow fall ;  
So mother says that we must love  
All creatures made by God above.
- 

## THE LITTLE HERO.

he-ro, one who is brave.  
Hol-land, a low, flat country in  
the north of Europe.  
reg-u-lar, even.  
re-quired, wanted.  
dykes, walls or banks of earth.

dis-may, terror.  
ra-vine, a long deep hollow.  
trick-ling, flowing by a few  
drops at a time.  
writh-ing, to twist violently.  
in-tense, very severe.

1. Many years ago, there lived in Haarlem, one of the cities of Holland, a sunny-haired and gentle boy.

His father was a sluicer, that is, a man whose work it was to open and close the sluices, or large oaken gates, that are placed at regular distances across the entrances of the canals, to regulate the amount of water that shall flow into them.

2. The sluicer raises the gates more or less according to the quantity of water required, and closes them carefully at night, in order to avoid all possible danger of too much running into the canal ; or the water would soon overflow it and flood the country around.

3. *As a great part of Holland is lower than*

the level of the sea, the waters are kept from flooding the land only by means of strong banks or dykes, and by means of these sluices, which are often strained to the utmost by the pressure of the rising tides.

4. Even the little children in Holland know that constant care is required to keep the rivers and ocean from flooding the country, and that a moment's neglect of the sluicer's duty may bring ruin and death to all.

5. One fine autumn afternoon, when the boy was about eight years old, he got his parents' consent to carry some cakes to a blind man who lived out in the country, on the other side of the dyke. Having spent an hour with his grateful old friend, he bade him farewell, and started to walk home.

6. Trudging along by the canal, he thought of his father's brave old gates, and felt glad of their strength, for, thought he, 'If *they* gave way, where would father and mother be?'

7. With these thoughts just flitting across his brain, he suddenly looked around him in dismay. He had not noticed that it was growing dark; he was still some distance from home, and in a lonely ravine. He quickened his footsteps; and with a beating heart recalled many a nursery tale of children belated in dreary forests.

8. Just as he was bracing himself for a run,

he was startled by the sound of trickling water. Whence did it come? He looked up and saw a small hole in the dyke through which a tiny stream was flowing.

9. Any child in Holland will shudder at the thought of a leak in the dyke! The boy saw the danger at a glance. That little hole, if the water were allowed to trickle through, would soon be a large one, and a terrible flood would be the result.

10. Quick as a flash, he saw his duty. Throwing away his flowers, the boy climbed up the heights, until he reached the hole. His chubby little finger was thrust in, almost before he knew it. The flowing was stopped!

11. This was all very well at first, but the night was falling fast, chill dews filled the air. Our little hero began to tremble with cold and fear. He shouted loudly; he screamed 'Come here! come here!' but no one came.

12. The cold grew more intense, a numbness beginning in the tired little finger, crept over his hand and arm, and soon his whole body was filled with pain. He shouted again, 'Will no one come? Mother! mother!'

13. The moon looked down upon that small, lonely form, sitting upon a stone half-way up the dyke. His head was bent, but he was not *asleep*.

14. If he drew away that tiny finger the waters would rush forth, and never stop until they had swept over the town. No, he would hold it there till daylight—if he lived! He was not very sure of living.

15. What did this strange buzzing mean? and then the knives that seemed pricking and piercing him from head to foot. He was not certain now that he could draw his finger away, even if he wished to.

16. At daybreak a clergyman, returning from the bedside of a sick man, thought he heard groans as he walked along on the top of the dyke. Bending, he saw, far down on the side, a child who seemed to be writhing with pain.

17. 'Hi!' cried he in wonder; 'what are you doing there, boy?'

'I am keeping the water from running out,' was the simple answer of the little hero. 'Tell them to come quickly.'

18. It is needless to add that they did come quickly, and that the little hero was relieved of his hard post. But the town was safe; and the safety of it and of all the people in it was due to this brave boy of Haarlem.

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## THE GOLDEN SNUFF-BOX.

**gen-er-al**, one who commands  
an army.

**dis-turb-ed**, uneasy, troubled.

**en-sign**, one who carries the  
flag of a regiment.

**sau-sage**, meat, herbs, &c.,  
chopped and put into a  
skin.

**hence-forth**, in future.  
**search**, to look for.

1. A General, while at table, showed some officers who were at dinner with him a new golden snuff-box. After a time when he wished to take a pinch, he searched all his pockets and said, with a disturbed air, 'Where can my box be ?

2. 'Will you kindly look, dear sirs, if some one of you have not, without thinking, put it in his pocket.'

They all on this stood up and turned their pockets inside out, but no box was to be seen.

3. Only the Ensign kept his seat, his face showing that he was in great trouble. 'I will not turn out my pocket,' said he; 'my word of honour that I have not the box should be enough.'

4. The officers went away shaking their heads to each other, and thinking he was the thief.

Next morning the General called him and said, 'The box has been found. The lining of my pocket was ripped, and it got out, and slipped down to the bottom of my coat.'

5. '*But now, tell me, why would you not*

turn out your pocket last night? All the rest did it at once.'

The Ensign said, 'I shall tell you, General, but I would not tell any one else.'

6. 'My parents are very poor, and I therefore give them half my pay, and eat a cold dinner each day. When I was invited by you, my dinner was in my pocket, and it would have put me to shame before all the others if, when I turned out my pocket, they had seen my black bread and sausage.'

7. The General was touched by the answer. 'You are a very good son,' said he; 'and in order that you may help your parents the more easily, henceforth you will dine with me.'

8. He led him into the dining-room, and before all the officers made him a present of the snuff-box, as a proof of his high esteem.

Whoever honours his father and mother is sure to be honoured both by God and man.

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## A NOBLE ACTION.

cred-it, honour.  
sur-pris-ed, astonished.  
glanc-ed, looked.

mis-take, error.  
re-pli-ed, answered.  
re-spect-ed, honoured.

1. There were prizes to be given in a school, and a boy named Willie wished very much to gain one. As he was very young, the other

boys were ahead of him in all his classes except in writing; so he made up his mind that he would try for the writing prize with all his might.

2. He did try bravely. He wrote every line with great care. There was not a blot on a single page. His copy-book would have done credit to a boy twice his age. When the time came for giving the prizes, the gentleman who had acted as judge came to the school.

3. Holding up two copy-books, he said, 'It has been hard for me to say which of these two books is the best in the school; but there is one page in Willie's book, which is not only better than Charlie's, but better than any other page in Willie's own book. His book, therefore, gains the prize.'

4. Willie's heart beat high with joy, though not unmixed with fear. He went up to the gentleman and said, 'Please, sir, may I see that page?' 'Certainly,' said the gentleman, looking a little surprised.

5. Willie glanced at the page, and then handing back the book, said, 'Please, sir, that is not *my* writing. It was written by an upper-class boy, who took my book by mistake one day instead of his own.'

6. 'Oh, ho!' said the gentleman, 'that *alters the case*;' and after comparing the

books again very carefully, he gave the prize to Charlie.

7. The boys laughed at Willie. 'What a fool you were, Willie, to say anything about it!' said one of them. 'I wouldn't have told;—the page was in your book.'

8. Willie heard all that they had to say, and then quietly replied: 'It would not have been the truth, if I had not told who wrote that page. I had rather tell the truth and do right than gain a dozen prizes.' Noble Willie!

Throughout life he acted upon that rule, and was loved and respected by every one.

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## COFFEE.

**op-po-site**, standing in front of. | **straight**, upright.  
**o-val**, the shape of an egg. | **lau-rel**, the bay-tree.

1. Coffee was brought into this country about the same time as tea. The coffee plant is, like our holly, an evergreen, and grows to the height of fifteen or twenty feet.

2. The trunk of the plant is straight, and has a number of branches opposite each other; on these branches grow leaves of an oval shape, somewhat like those of the laurel, which grows in our gardens.

3. Little bunches, made up of four or five white flowers, appear on these leaves, and when the flowers fall off, there are left small round berries, from which we get the coffee.

4. These berries, when ripe, are plucked from the tree, and, after being roasted, are



Branch of the Coffee-tree.

ground in a mill. If you go into a grocer's shop you will see some of these berries, and, in many shops, you will see the mills in which the coffee is ground.

5. Coffee which has been newly ground, is

better than that which has lain for some time. So, when you wish to buy coffee, you should always learn if it is fresh.

6. In those countries where the coffee plant grows, it forms the chief drink of the



Gathering Coffee-berries.

people, who are said to be in the habit of taking three or four ounces in the course of the day, and they use it without milk or sugar.

7. Coffee will grow only in warm countries, and best of all where there is plenty of

water, as the roots of the plant need a great deal of moisture. The best coffee comes from a country in the west of Asia called Arabia.

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## READY WIT.

toil, work.

factory, a place of business  
or work.

pulley, a wheel on which a  
rope runs for lifting weights.

rove, unwind.

worst-ed, yarn, spun from  
wool, for knitting.

keep-sake, a thing kept to  
remind us of some one.

1. After hard toil for many weeks, the tall chimney of a new factory was built. The men put the last stroke to their work, and came down as fast as they could. In his haste, the last but one drew the rope out of the pulley.

2. They saw one man left at the top, with no means to come down. What could be done? There was no scaffold, and no ladder would reach half the height.

3. They all stood in silence to look up at their lonely friend on the top.

Just then his wife came by, and, with quick thought and good sense, she was able to save her husband.

4. 'John,' she called out with all her strength, 'rove your stocking; begin at the toe.' He *knew at once* what she meant, and drawing

off his stocking—no doubt knit by his wife—cut off the end, and soon set free the thread. He unwound a long piece, and to this he tied a little bit of brick, and gently let it down for eager hands to reach.

5. Mean-time his wife had brought a ball of small twine, which was made fast to the worsted. With a shout, they told John to pull up again. He did so, and they heard the words, 'I have it.' The pulley

rope was then made fast to the twine.

6. With a glad heart John drew it up, put it over the pulley; then taking up the rest of



'John, rove your stocking.'



the stocking, which was to him a keepsake for life, he let himself down as the other men had done, till he reached the ground in safety.

## BIRDS' NESTS.

**in-ter-weave**, to weave together.

**eaves**, the part of the roof jutting beyond the walls.

**i-vi-ed**, covered with ivy.

**lich-en**, a plant that licks up moisture on rocks and the bark of trees.

1. The skylark's nest among the grass  
And waving corn is found ;  
The robin's on a shady bank,  
With oak-leaves strewed around.



Wren's Nest.

2. The wren builds in an  
  ivied thorn,  
Or old and ruined  
  wall ;  
The mossy nest so  
  covered in,  
You scarce can see  
  at all.
3. The martins build their nests of clay,  
  In rows beneath the eaves ;  
The silvery lichens, moss, and hair,  
  *The chaffinch interweaves.*

4. The cuckoo makes no nest at all,  
But through the wood she strays,  
Until she finds one snug and warm,  
And there her egg she lays.
5. The sparrow has a nest of hay,  
With feathers warmly lined ;



Sparrow's Nest.



Dove's Nest.

- The ringdove's careless nest of sticks,  
On lofty trees we find.
6. Rooks build together in a wood,  
And often disagree ;  
The owl will build inside a barn,  
Or in a hollow tree.
7. The blackbird's nest of grass and mud  
In bush and bank is found ;

The lapwing's darkly spotted eggs  
Are laid upon the ground.

8. The magpie's nest is made with thorns  
In leafless tree or hedge ;  
The wild-duck and the water-hen  
Build by the water's edge..



Magpie's Nest.

9. Birds build their nests from year to year,  
According to their kind ;  
Some very neat and beautiful—  
Some simpler ones we find.
10. The habits of each little bird,  
And all its patient skill,  
Are surely taught by God Himself,  
And ordered by His will.

## THE TWO SISTERS.

**In-di-an**, one of the first of the  
races of N. America.  
**glos-sy**, bright, shining.

**trou-ble**, sorrow.  
**com-for-ted**, made happy

1. Once upon a time, there was an Indian who lived in a forest, on the banks of a beautiful river, and he did nothing all day long but catch fish and hunt wild deer.

2. This Indian had two lovely little daughters; he named one Sunbeam, because she was so bright and cheerful, and the other he called Starlight, because he said her sweet eyes twinkled like the stars.

3. Sunbeam and Starlight were as gay as butterflies, and as busy as bees, from morning till night.

4. They ran races under the shady trees, made bunches of wild flowers, swung on grape-vine swings, turned berries and acorns into beads, and dressed their glossy black hair with bright feathers, that beautiful birds had dropped.

5. They loved each other so much, and were so happy together, that they never knew what trouble meant; until one day Starlight became very ill, and before the big moon came over the tree-tops, the sweet Indian child had closed her starry eyes in death.

6. Sunbeam's heart was full of grief. She

could not play, for Starlight was gone she knew not where : so she took the bright feathers out of her hair, and sat down by the river, and cried for Starlight to come back to her.

7. When her father told her that Starlight was gone to the Spirit-land of love and beauty, and would be happy for ever and ever, she was comforted, and said, 'Now I know where my darling Starlight is, and I can kiss her, and talk to her again.'


8. Sunbeam had heard her people say that the birds brought messages from the Spirit-land ; so she hunted through the woods, until she found a little song-bird that was too young to fly, fast asleep in its nest.

9. She carried it home, and took care of it till its wings grew strong, and it filled the woods with its music.

10. Then she took it to Starlight's grave, and after loading it with kisses, and with words of love for Starlight, she told it never to stop, until it had flown to the Spirit-land.

11. Then Sunbeam ran home to her father, and told him with a bright smile what she had done ; and Sunbeam was once more her father's cheerful and happy little girl.

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## THE BROKEN CRUTCH.

**crutch**, a staff with a cross-piece at the head to place under the arms of a lame person.

**shift-ing**, moving.

**coach**, a closed carriage with four wheels.

**waist-coat**, a short garment worn under the coat close to the waist.

1. One hot day in the month of June, a poor sunburnt sailor, with but one leg, was going along the road, when his crutch broke in halves, and he was forced to crawl on his hands and knees to the side of the road, and sit down to wait till some coach or cart came by, whose driver he would ask to take him up.

2. The first that passed that way was a stage-coach; but the man who drove it was a surly fellow, and he would not help the sailor, as he thought he should not be paid for it.

3. Soon after this the tired sailor fell fast asleep upon the ground, and though a thick shower of rain came on, yet still he slept, for sailors when on board their ships have to bear all sorts of weather.

4. When the wind blows, the waves of the sea often dash over the deck of the vessel, and wet the poor men to the skin, while they are pulling the ropes and shifting the sails.

5. When the lame sailor awoke, he found a boy's coat and waistcoat laid on his head and

shoulders, to keep him from being wet ; and the boy sat by, in his shirt, trying to mend the broken crutch with two pieces of wood and some strong twine.

6. 'My good lad,' said the sailor, 'why did you pull off your own clothes to keep me from being wet?'

7. 'Oh,' said he ; 'I do not mind the rain, but I thought the large drops that fell on your face would awake you ; and you must be sadly tired to sleep so sound upon the bare ground.'

8. 'See ! I have almost mended your crutch, which I found broken ; and if you can lean on me, and cross yonder field to my uncle's farmhouse, I am sure he will give you a new crutch. Pray, do try to go there. I wish I were tall enough to carry you on my back.'

9. The sailor looked at him with tears in his eyes, and said : 'When I went to sea five years ago, I left a boy behind me, and if I now should find him such a good fellow as you seem to be, I shall be as happy as the day is long, though I have lost my leg, and must go on crutches all the rest of my life.'

10. 'What was your son's name?' the boy asked. 'Tom Browne,' said the sailor, 'and my name is John Browne.'

11. When the boy heard these words, he jumped up, threw his arms round the sailor's

neck, and said, 'My dear, dear father, I am Tom Browne, your own little boy.' How great was the sailor's joy thus to meet his own child, and to find him so good to those who wanted help!

12. Tom had been taken care of by his uncle while his father was at sea, and the sun-burnt lame sailor found a happy home in the farmhouse of his brother.

13. He had now a new crutch, but he kept the old one as long as he lived, and showed it to all strangers who came to the farm, as a proof of the kind heart of his dear son Tom.

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## THE ECHO.

**e-cho**, to sound back.  
**shout-ed**, called loudly.  
**be-tray-ed**, deceived.

**search-ed**, looked for.  
**naught-y**, bad.  
**friend-ly**, kind, loving.

1. Little George had never heard tell of the Echo. One day he went into the wood and called aloud, 'Ho, ho.' At once a voice from the wood replied, 'Ho, ho.'

2. George was much surprised and shouted, 'Who are you?' The voice replied, 'Who are you?' 'You are a stupid boy,' called out George; 'Stupid boy,' was the reply he got in return.



3. George now grew angry, and shouted bad names to the boy he thought was in the wood. But whatever he called out, the same names were shouted back to him. In his anger, he searched through the whole wood, to hit the boy, but could not find him anywhere.

4. Then George ran home and told his mother, how a naughty boy had hidden in the wood, and had called him bad names.

5. 'Ah,' said his mother, 'now you have betrayed yourself. Do you know you have heard nothing from the wood but your own words.'

6. 'As you can see your own face in the water, so have you heard your own voice in the wood. If you had but spoken a friendly word, you would have had a friendly word in reply.'

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## TEA AND SUGAR.

Chin-a and Ja-pan, coun-tries in the east of Asia.

pre-par-a-tion, the way a thing is made.

moist, damp.

col-lect-ed, gathered.

squeez-ed, pressed.

1. Everybody knows what *tea* is, but every one does not know how it grows, or from what country it is brought.

2. It is the leaf of a plant which grows

chiefly in China and Japan. The plant is about the size of a rose-tree, or at the most six or seven feet in height.

3. It bears a flower like a rose. Its leaves are long, narrow, and pointed, like those of the sweet-brier, and are of a dark green colour.

4. The root is like that of the peach-tree, and the stem spreads out into many branches. The wood is hard, and produces a small fruit, of the size of a hazel nut.

5. The tea-tree grows in a moist soil—commonly stony—or at the foot of mountains and rocks which face the south. Green and



Branch of the Tea-plant.

*black teas* are collected at the same time, the difference of colour being due to the mode of preparation. Both kinds may be made out of the same basket of leaves.

6. We get sugar from many plants, but the



Gathering Leaves of the Tea-plant.

chief supply is obtained from the sugar-cane—a plant which grows in many warm countries, as the East and West Indies.

7. The sugar-cane grows to a height of from fifteen to twenty feet. On being cut down, *the canes* are passed through a mill with iron

rollers, and by these the juice is all squeezed out.

8. The juice is then boiled with lime water, and after it has had time to settle, the clear part is drawn off, and boiled over a fire until crystals form.



A Sugar-plantation.

9. In this state, the sugar contains a large amount of treacle, which is removed in this way. The sugar is allowed to drain in proper vessels, until all the treacle has run off, and then we have the brown sugar sold in the shops by the grocer.

10. When the brown sugar is brought to this country, a great many things are done to it to make it white.

Many men are employed in growing the sugar-cane. Many ships are used to bring it home; and when it has been brought home, a great many more men called sugar-refiners are employed in making it white.

## THE HORSE-SHOE NAIL.

**host-ler**, one who has charge  
of horses at an inn.  
**inn**, a place of rest for those  
who travel, a public-house.

**dusk**, dark.  
**black-smith**, a man who shoes  
horses, and does other metal  
work.

1. A farmer one day went to market to sell the produce of his farm. By the time his corn and hay had been all sold, he found that he had a money-bag full of gold and silver.

2. 'If I am to get home to-night,' thought he, 'it is high time for me to be on the road.'

So his horse was brought out, and he placed his bag of money on the horse's back, and set off for home.

3. At noon he stopped to rest at an inn by the wayside. Just as he was about to start *again*, the hostler, as he led out the horse,

said, 'Please, sir, the left hind shoe has lost a nail.'

4. 'Let it go,' said the farmer; 'the shoe will hold fast for the twenty miles I have to travel. I cannot wait.' Saying these words he started on his journey.

5. At dusk the farmer again stopped to rest himself. As he sat in the inn, the hostler came and said—

'Sir, your horse has lost a nail in his left hind shoe. Shall I take him to the blacksmith?'

6. 'No; let the shoe stay as it is. I have but six miles more to go, and it will do well enough that distance. I am in haste, and I have no time to lose.'

7. Away rode the farmer. But he had not gone far before the horse began to limp. It had not limped long before it began to stumble. It had not stumbled long before it fell down and broke a leg.

8. The farmer was now obliged to leave his horse lying on the road. He had to unstrap his bag, throw it over his own shoulder, and make his way home on foot as well as he could. He did not reach home till long after midnight.

9. 'All my ill luck,' said the farmer to himself, 'comes from the loss of a horse-shoe nail. Had I stopped for a few minutes to

get that put right, I should have reached home a richer man.'

10. This story shows the truth of the proverb, 'A stitch in time saves nine.' A nail in the horse-shoe at the proper time would have saved the horse.

### THE RAIN-DROP.—A FABLE.

**fa-ble**, a tale.

**with-er**, to fade, to dry up.

**des-pair**, to be without hope.

**hil-lock**, a very small hill.

**com-pan-i-ons**, those who are much together.

**er-rand**, a message.

**cast down**, unhappy.

1. There was once a farmer who had a large field. He ploughed it, and sowed it with corn, and weeded it with great care; and on this field he depended for the support of his family.

2. But after he had worked so hard he saw the corn wither and droop for want of rain, and he thought he should lose his crop.

He felt very sad, and went out every day to look, and see if there was any hope of rain.

3. One day, as he stood there looking at the sky, and almost in despair, two little rain-drops *up in the clouds* over his head saw him; and

one said to the other, 'Look at that poor farmer. I feel sorry for him; he has taken such pains with his field of corn, and now it is all drying up. I wish I could do him some good.'

4. 'Well,' said the other, 'but you are only a little rain-drop; what can you do? You can't even wet one hillock.'

5. 'Well,' said the first, 'to be sure I can't do much; but I can cheer the farmer a little, at any rate, and I will do my best. I'll try; I'll go to the field to show my good-will, if I can do no more; so here I go.'

6. And down went the rain-drop, and came pat on the farmer's nose, and then *fell on one stalk of corn.*





7. 'Dear me!' said the farmer, putting his hand to his nose. 'What's that? A rain-drop? Where did that come from? I do believe we shall have a shower!'

8. The first rain-drop had no sooner started, than the second one said, 'Well, if you go, I believe I will go too, so here I come!' And down dropped the rain-drop on another stalk.

9. By this time a great many rain-drops had come together to hear what their companions were talking about; and when they heard them, and saw them going to cheer the farmer, and water the corn, one of them said, 'If you're going on so good an errand I'll go too;' and down he came.

10. 'And I,' said another, 'and I, and I, and I;' and so on, till a whole shower of them came, and the corn was watered; and it grew, and ripened, all because the first little rain-drop made up its mind to do what it could.

11. Never be cast down, children, because you can't do much. Do what you can. Angels can do no more.

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## THE MONTHS.

glow, to feel heat or warmth.  
chill, cold.  
daf-fo-dil, a flower of the lily  
kind.  
blast, blowing of wind.

scat-ter, to strew.  
pheas-ant, a bird highly  
valued as food.  
sleet, rain with snow or hail.

1. January brings the snow,  
Makes our feet and fingers glow.



2. February brings the rain,  
Thaws the frozen lakes again.
3. March brings breezes sharp and chill,  
Shakes the dancing daffodil.
4. April brings the primrose sweet,  
Scatters daisies at our feet.
5. May brings flocks of pretty lambs,  
Sporting round their fleecy dams.
6. June brings tulips, lilies, roses,  
Fills the children's hands with posies.
7. Hot July brings cooling showers,  
Apricots, and gilly-flowers.
8. August brings the sheaves of corn ;  
Then the harvest home is borne.
9. Warm September brings the fruit ;  
Sportsmen then begin to shoot.
10. Brown October brings the pheasant ;  
Then to gather nuts is pleasant.
11. Dull November brings the blast—  
Hark ! the leaves are whirling fast.
12. Cold December brings the sleet,  
Blazing fire, and Christmas treat.

## BEN'S NEW BROOM.

**cross-ing**, the path across a road.

**bank**, a place where money is kept.

**de-nied him-self**, lived on as little as he could.

**er-rand**, a message.

**pris-on**, house of correction.

**rise in the world**, to get on in life.

**wil-ling**, ready.

1. Ben's mother was dead, and his father was in prison. He had no home, and very few friends. As long as the weather was fine, he used to carry parcels and run errands, and sometimes beg, but he would not steal.

2. When winter came, he was very poor, and did not know how to get enough to eat. But a kind friend gave him a new broom, and told him to use it well, and he would soon be able to sweep his way through the world.

3. He swept the snow from many a doorstep, and the mud from many a crossing, with his new broom. He did his work quickly and well, and money began to find its way into his pocket, so that he was able to buy enough to eat.

4. The wind blew through his rags, and the



rain and snow made him very cold, but he worked hard, and hoped for better days.

5. One day, when his new broom was nearly worn out, and he had saved a few shillings, a friend said he would lend him a barrow.

6. So Ben took the barrow, and began selling turnips, greens, and peas. He made noise enough, and he called at every house, but he soon sold all that he had.

7. Money came faster then, and he saved what he could, and put it in the bank at the Post Office. He bought better clothes, and soon had a good home. When he had saved money enough to buy a donkey and cart of his own, he did a great deal more work and made more money.

8. So Ben worked hard, and denied himself, and took care of his money till he became a man. He learned to read and write, and became so clever that no one would have known how poor he had been if he had not told them. But he was never ashamed of his early days.

9. He is now a rich man, with money in the bank and a shop of his own. He has helped many poor boys and girls to start in life, and is always willing to help those who will help themselves.

10. He says to all poor children: 'My first start in life was a new broom, with a pair of *willing hands* to use it well. I rose from broom

to barrow, and from the barrow to the bank. Willing hands, clear heads, and brave hearts may always rise in the world if they will.'

11. But he gives more than kind words and good advice. He helps the poor by finding them work and teaching them trades, and giving them a fair start in life.

12. There are many who have heard him tell the story of his new broom, and who have gone away with brave hearts to work their own way through life.

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## THE GRANDFATHER'S CORNER.

**daughter-in-law**, a son's  
wife.  
**trem-bble**, to shake.

**min-ute**, a space of sixty  
seconds.  
**treat-ed**, used.

1. Once upon a time there was a very old man who lived with his son and daughter-in-law. He was so old that he could hardly see; his knees shook under him when he walked; and he was very deaf.

2. As he sat at table, his hand trembled, so that he often spilled the soup over the tablecloth, or on his clothes, and sometimes even he could not keep it in his mouth when it got there.

3. This so vexed his son and daughter-in-law that at last they placed a chair for him in

a corner of the room, and gave him his meals in a basin all by himself. He often looked



at the table with tears in his eyes, when they were at their meals, but he did not complain.

4. One day, when he was thinking sadly of the past, the basin, which he could hardly hold in his trembling hands, fell to the ground and was broken.

5. The young wife scolded him for not being more careful, but he said nothing in reply, and only gave a deep sigh. Then she bought him a cheap wooden bowl, so that it would not break if he let it fall, and she gave him his meals in that.

6. Not long after, the son and his wife saw their little boy, who was about four years old, sitting on the ground, and trying to fasten together some pieces of wood.

7. 'What are you making, my boy?' asked his father.

'I am making a little bowl for you and mother to eat your food in, when I am a man,' he replied.

8. The husband and wife looked at each other without speaking for some minutes. Then the tears came into their eyes, and they went to their old father and set him once more at their own table, and from that day he always had his meals with them, and was never treated unkindly.

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## GRANDPAPA.

trou-ble, to tease or annoy.  
hon-our, respect, love.

cour-age, strength.  
re-mem-ber, to keep in mind.

1. Grandpapa's hair is very white,  
And grandpapa walks but slow ;  
He likes to sit still in his easy-chair



While the children come and go.  
'Hush! play quietly,' says mamma,  
'Let nobody trouble dear grandpapa.'

2. Grandpapa's hand is thin and weak,  
It has worked hard all its days;  
A strong right hand, and an honest hand,  
That has won all good men's praise.  
'Kiss it kindly,' says mamma,  
'Let every one honour grandpapa.'
3. Grandpapa's eyes are growing dim,  
They have looked on sorrow and death,  
But the love-light never went out of them,  
Nor the courage and the faith.  
'You children, all of you,' says mamma,  
'Have need to look up to dear grandpapa.'
4. Grandpapa's years are wearing few,  
But he leaves a blessing behind;  
A good life lived, and a good fight fought,  
True heart and equal mind.  
'Remember, my children,' says mamma,  
'You bear the name of your grandpapa.'

---

### THE CLOAK.

**guide**, one who shows the way.  
**scan-ty**, small, poor.  
**un-i-form**, being alike, as in  
the case of the dress of  
soldiers or sailors.

**o-blige**d, forced.  
**ac-count**, here means a story.  
**pro-vide**, to supply the wants  
of another.

1. A party of soldiers once came to a village during a time of war, and asked for a guide. A poor labourer was forced to go with them.

It was very cold, and the snow fell thick and heavy. He begged the people of the village to lend him a cloak, but they paid no heed to him.

2. Only one poor old man, a stranger, who had been driven from his own country by the war, and earned a scanty living in the village as a blacksmith, took pity on the guide and gave him his cloak.

3. The soldiers marched on ; and, lo ! late in the evening there came riding into the village a handsome young officer in splendid uniform, with a cross of honour on his breast, and asked to be led to the old man who had lent his cloak to the guide.

4. The kind old man, as soon as he saw the officer, exclaimed, 'Oh ! it is my own son Rudolf !' He then rushed to him and clasped him in his arms.

5. Rudolf had been obliged to enlist as a soldier many years before, and had been made an officer on account of his good conduct and bravery. He had heard nothing more of his father, who had been formerly a master-smith in a large market-town.

6. But now he had known the old cloak, and from the account of the guide, had become certain that his father was at this time living in the village.

7. The father and son wept for joy ; and all *the people who stood near could not but shed*

tears also. Rudolf stayed with his father all that night, gave him before he went away a sum of money, and told him that he would provide for him for the future.

8. 'See,' said the villagers, 'as the old man had pity on others, so God has had pity on him, and given him back his son to be a comfort and support to him in his old age.'

## LOOK AT BOTH SIDES.

**knight**, a title; also a gentleman admitted in former times to a certain military rank.

**er-rant**, roving, wandering.

**mail**, coverings of steel plates or chain coats.

**shield**, a piece of armour worn on the left arm as a defence in battle.

1. In times long ago, there was a class of men called knight-errants, who were dressed in coats of mail, and who rode about singly to aid those who might need their help.

2. Once in those old times, two knights, coming from different ways, met at a place where a statue was set up.

3. On the arm of the statue was a shield, one side of which was of iron, and the other side was of brass.

4. As the two knights came up to the statue from opposite ways, each saw but one

side of the shield : one saw the iron side, and the other saw the brass side.

5. The knights bade each other good-day ; and one of them made the remark, that if the iron shield of the statue were round instead of oval, he should like it much better.

6. '*Iron* shield ?' cried the other knight. 'You are mistaken ; the shield is made of *brass*.'



'Oh no !' said the first knight ; 'do you think I cannot tell iron from brass ? I say the shield is iron.'

7. 'And I say it is brass,' said the second knight.

'When you say *that*, sir,' cried the first, 'you as much as tell me that I speak what *is not true*.'

8. Here the two knights grew so very angry, that they began to fight, and both were thrown from their horses.

As the knights lay on the ground, a man came up and told them that the shield of the statue was on one side of iron, and on the other side of brass.

9. 'Ah! then we have been fighting about nothing at all,' groaned the first knight.

'How foolish we have been!' said the second.

Before getting into a dispute on a subject, we should look at it well on both sides.

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## THE LIFE OF A SCHOOL SLATE.

**a-ges**, very long periods of time.

**a-roused**, awakened.

**clink**, a sharp clear sound.

**ex-posed**, uncovered.

**frag-ments**, broken pieces.

**quar-ry**, a place from which we get stone.

**sta-tion-er**, one who sells paper and other things used in writing.

**ware-house**, a store-room.

1. For ages I lay buried among the rocks in a mountain in North Wales. I was aroused from my sleep by the clink of a hammer, and the dull heavy blow of an iron rod, that was driven into the quarry.

2. Then I heard the sound of a bugle and the hurried patter of busy feet. There was

silence for a moment, and then a blast of powder tore me from my bed, and exposed me to the light of day.

3. A quarryman picked me up from among the fragments of rock and wheeled me on a small waggon to the workshop. I was cut in pieces by a large saw. Then I was planed, and smoothed, and framed by some strange machines that were driven by a large water-wheel.

4. After this I was packed with hundreds of others, and sent by train to a stationer's warehouse to be sold. I lay in this warehouse for some months. At length I was sent to a school in the country and sold to a schoolboy for fourpence.

5. He took me home with great pride and showed me to his mother. I heard her ask how long I should last. She reminded him that he had broken several good slates by his carelessness. Once he had been running home from school and had fallen on a new slate and broken it to pieces.

6. A second had been broken in a quarrel. He had been throwing stones at another boy, and a stone that was thrown at him had smashed the slate.

7. A third had been left in baby's way. She had thrown it down on the hearth and *broken it*. So my young master was told to

be careful how he treated me. He was warned that if he broke me, he could not have another.

8. So he bored holes through my frame, and hung me by a string round his neck. He borrowed a knife, and scratched lines all over me, and began to write upon me.

9. I have been living with him now for about six months. I am not so clean and handsome as I used to be. And though he says he takes great care of me, I begin to think that I shall not live very long.

10. He took me on the ice last winter when he was sliding. The ice broke and we both fell into the water. He managed to wade out, but the string broke and I was left behind. I was fished out a few days afterwards.

11. I have been thrown to the ground and trampled upon. I am scratched over with marks of his feet, and if I had not been very strong I should have been broken long ago.



'He began to write upon me.'



12. But all things must have an end ; and when I am broken, I shall believe that my young master is neither better nor worse than other boys.

---

## THE LITTLE CONQUEROR.

**re-peat**, to say.

**war-ri-or**, a soldier, one engaged in war.

**en-e-mies**, those who fight against each other.

**ef-fort**, struggle, to try hard.

**de-feat**, to be beaten.

**con-quer**, to overcome.

**thor-ough-ly**, through to the end, entirely.

1. 'Oh, dear!' said little Edward, 'I never shall be able to learn this long lesson ; it is so hard ! I think I must give it up !'

'Give it up?' said his mother. 'Never let it be said that a lesson which thousands of children have learned has beaten you.'

2. 'Well, mother,' said Edward, 'I have read this lesson over more than twenty times in the last hour, and still I cannot repeat it.'

'And yet,' said his mother, 'you have not tried one half so many times as the little ant did to get a grain of corn into his cell.'

3. 'Why, mother,' said Edward, 'how many times did he try ? Please tell me the story.'

'The story is this,' said his mother : 'Timour, a great warrior, was several times beaten by his enemies, and he had to flee *from them*, and hide in an old building.

4. 'He was very much cast down by his defeat, and he almost made up his mind that he would never try to conquer them again.

5. 'One day he saw a little ant trying to get a grain of corn into his cell, which was high up on a wall. As he was just about to reach it his strength failed, and it fell to the floor.

6. 'But the little ant did not give up. He caught hold of the grain of corn and tried again ; and he fell to the floor a second time.

'Thus he went on trying for sixty-nine times, but as often he fell to the floor. The seventieth time he reached the cell with his prize !

7. 'The conduct of the ant gave Timour courage to try again to overcome his enemies; and he was able to do so.'

'Well done, little ant !' cried Edward. 'I will do by my lesson as the ant did by the grain of corn : I will not give it up : I will conquer it.'

8. With another effort he learned his lesson thoroughly. And seldom after that did Edward fail to know his lessons.

9. If at first you don't succeed,  
Try, try, try again :  
All that other boys can do,  
Why, with patience, may not you ?  
Only keep this rule in view—  
*Try, try again.*

## A YOUNG GIRL TO HER LITTLE BROTHER.

**de-li-cate**, tender, weak.  
**dim-ples**, little hollows made  
 in the cheeks of some people  
 when they laugh.

**fea-tures**, face, countenance.  
**silk-en fringes**, here mea-  
 the eyelashes.  
**pre-ci-ous**, worth a great price.

1. My pretty baby-brother  
 Is six months old to-day ;  
 And, though he cannot speak,  
 He knows whate'er I say.  
 Whenever I come near,  
 He crows for very joy ;  
 And dearly do I love him ;  
 The darling baby-boy.
  
2. My brother's cheek is blooming,  
 And his bright laughing eyes  
 Are like the pure spring violets,  
 Or the summer cloudless skies.  
 His mouth is like a rosebud,  
 So delicate and red ;  
 And his hair is soft as silk,  
 And curls all round his head.
  
3. When he laughs, upon his face  
 So many dimples play,  
 They seem like little sunbeams  
 Which o'er his features stray.

I am sure we all must love him,  
He is so full of glee :  
Just like a ray of sunshine  
My brother is to me.



4. When in his pretty cradle  
He lies in quiet sleep,  
'Tis joy to be beside him,  
A faithful watch to keep ;  
And when his sleep is over,  
I love to see him lie,  
And lift the silken fringes  
That veil his sweet blue eye.

5. How cunning he will look,  
 Among the grass and flowers!  
 No blossom is so fair  
 As this precious one of ours.  
 Every night before I sleep,  
 When I kneel to say my prayer,  
 I ask my heavenly Father  
 Of my brother to take care.
- 

## A FAMOUS TAILOR.

ad-mir-al, commander of the  
 fleet.  
 beach, land close to the sea.  
 boom, a chain or bar laid  
 across a harbour.  
 cour-age, strength of heart.

fa-mous, noted, well known.  
 na-vy, a fleet of war-ships.  
 tail-or, one who makes  
 clothes.  
 Vi-go, a city of Spain.  
 vis-it-ed, went to see.

1. In a small town on the south coast of England, a number of men were one day seated on a board hard at work in a tailor's shop.

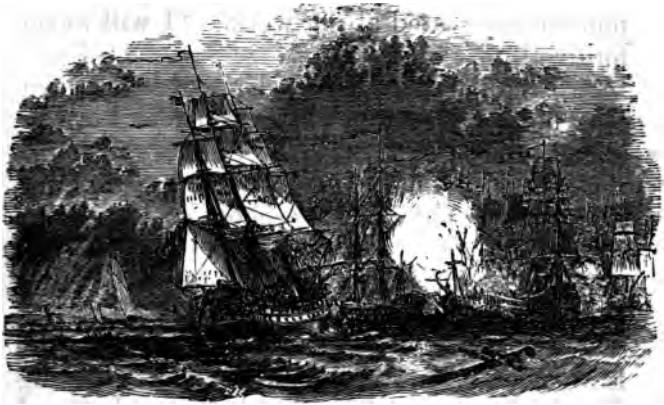
A boy ran into the room and told them that the king's ships were sailing past.

2. They leaped from the board, laid aside their work, and ran down the street to the beach. There they stood to watch the ships of war sailing down the channel.

3. One of the tailors, a young man named Hobson, leaped into a boat and rowed to the

admiral's ship. He offered to join the navy, and fight for his king and country. He soon forgot the tailor's shop he had left behind, and gave all his thoughts to his new duties.

4. He began to serve in the lowest ranks, and rose step by step till his courage and skill made him famous. He became admiral of the fleet, and broke the boom in the attack on



Vigo. He defeated the fleets of France and Spain, and returned to England with fame and honour.

5. In his old age he often visited the small tailor's shop where he used to work at his trade, and was fond of talking with his old friends who had worked with him in the days when he was young and poor.

## THE GLORIOUS REVENGE.

**glo-ri-ous**, here means great.  
**re-venge**, to punish in return.  
**sit-u-a-tion**, a place, employ-  
 ment.  
**per-mis-sion**, leave.

**wid-ow-ed**, without a hus-  
 band.  
**in-jure**, to do harm to.  
**im-i-tate**, to copy.  
**es-teem**, to respect.

1. 'No, I will never forgive him !' exclaimed Harry Jones, bursting into the room where his mother was seated at her work. 'I will never forgive him.'

'Never forgive whom, Harry? My dear boy, how excited and angry you look ! Who has offended you ?'

2. 'Why, Charles West, mother,' replied Harry, as he put away his school-books in their place.

'And what has Charles done to offend you? Come and sit by me, and tell me about it.'

3. 'Well,' said Harry, 'Mr. Raymond, who is a friend of Mr. Matthews, and who is staying with him, came into the schoolroom to-day, and offered a prize of a shilling to the boy who would first do a sum he would give us.'

4. 'He gave us all the same sum, and we all set to work. Charles West sat next to me, and I saw him copy the figures from my slate.'

'When I had only one more figure to make, Mr. Matthews left the room : I looked

to see who went out; and when I turned to my slate again, every figure was rubbed out.

5. 'I knew Charles had done it, because he got red in the face. In a minute he had finished his sum; it was first done, and correct; so he got the shilling. But I mean to have a glorious revenge.'

6. 'And what is your glorious revenge to be, Harry?'

'Oh, I know; and I will tell you. Mr. Matthews says he will expel any boy from the school who uses the Key to the Grammar Exercises. I saw Charles using one yesterday; and I have made up my mind to tell of him.'

7. 'Listen to me a moment, Harry. Charles is to remain at school one year more; and a gentleman has promised, if he behaves well, to place him, at the end of that time, in a situation where in a few years he will be able to support his widowed mother.'

8. 'Now, if he is turned out of the school in disgrace, do you think the gentleman will give him the situation? And what would be the feelings of his poor mother, to think that her son, who she hoped would be a support and comfort in her old age, had disgraced himself?'

9. 'Oh, mother!' said Harry, with tears in his eyes, 'I did not think of all that, I would not ruin him for all the world. But he



did make me very angry at the time, and I should like to punish him a little for it.'

10. 'Well, Harry, I know of a way to punish him, and to have a really glorious revenge. "Be not overcome of evil, but overcome evil with good."'



11. Harry thought long over his mother's advice before he decided what to do. When he had made up his mind, he asked permission of his mother to invite Charles West to tea.

12. The permission was readily given, and they had a very pleasant evening together. Their chief amusement was sailing a pretty ship on a pond in the garden.

13. When the time came for Charles to go home, Harry said, 'I will make you a present of the ship. Here it is.'

'Oh no!' cried Charles, stepping back, 'I could not think of such a thing.'

14. 'Oh, but, Charlie, you *must* have it.

Mother says I may do what I like with it. Besides, I can make another just like it.'

Charles turned away his head to hide his tears. 'Harry,' he said, 'I will never try to injure you again, as I did yesterday; no, I never will.'

15. From that day the boys became fast friends. Charles gave up the use of the Key to the Exercises; he tried to imitate his friend's example; and he gained the esteem of his master, and the love of his schoolfellows.

## A SAD QUARREL.

re-plied, answered.  
crook-ed, bent.  
trou-ble, sorrow, grief.

in-sult, to abuse.  
quar-rel, to disagree, dis-  
pute.

1. A pin and a needle, who were neighbours in a workbox, both being idle, began to quarrel, as idle folks are apt to do.

'I should like to know,' said the pin to the needle, 'what you are good for, and how you can expect to get on in the world without a head.'

2. 'What's the use of your head?' replied the needle, rather sharply, 'if you have no eye?'

'What's the use of an eye,' said the pin, 'if there's always something in it?'

3. 'I am more active, and can go through more work than you can,' said the needle.

'Yes, but you will not live long.'

'Why not?' said the needle.

'Because you have always a stitch at your side,' said the pin.

4. 'You are a crooked creature,' said the needle.

'And you are so proud that you can't bend without breaking your back,' said the pin.

'I'll pull your head off if you insult me again,' said the needle.

'And I'll pull your eye out if you touch my head,' said the pin.

5. While they were thus speaking, a little girl came in, and, trying to sew, she soon broke off the needle at the eye. Then she tied the thread around the neck of the pin, and in trying to pull the thread through the cloth, she soon pulled its head off, and then threw it into the dirt, by the side of the broken needle.

6. 'Well, here we are!' said the needle.

'We've nothing to fight about now,' said the pin.

'Trouble seems to have brought us to our senses,' said the needle.

7. 'How much we are like human beings, who quarrel about their blessings till they lose them, and never find out that they are brothers till they lie down in the dust together, as we are lying!'

## THE RIVER.—I.

u-nite, to join together  
foam, to froth.  
gur-gle, to bubble  
sur-face, the top.  
spires, steeples.

bleach, to make white.  
clam-ber, to climb.  
un-furl, unroll.  
mir-ror, like a looking-glass.  
greet, to welcome.

1. High up in the mountains are many small lakes, and from them run streams which unite and form the river. The waters of the river foam and gurgle as they rush over the rocks and hasten down to the valley.

2. On the way there comes to join the river a little brook, and asks, 'Take me with you, brother?' And the river says, 'Come, flow here by my side.' And the waters of the river and the waters of the brook flow gently and peacefully together between the flowery banks.

3. The great river fishes swim deep in these waters, but the little fishes play on the surface. Then come the fishermen in their boats, and throw out nets, and catch the old fish and the young ones.

4. The young ones they put back again into the water, and leave them there until they are older; but the old ones they take home for food.

5. Now the river comes to the city, with tall spires, and grand houses, and very many people. Here the people have built a bridge and pass

backwards and forwards upon it, and the river flows away under it.

6. After this he comes to beautiful fields,



and green meadows, and he looks on them, and would like to wander over them.

Then the snow melts, and the rain pours

down from the clouds, and the waters of the river rise until they stream over the banks.

7. They cover the fields and the meadows, until the whole plain looks like a sea.

But this does not last long. The river flows back to its bed, and again runs quietly between its banks, farther and farther on.

8. Now come the ships, with their masts, and with their many-coloured flags fluttering in the wind ; and with their white sails, which blow about like linen at the bleach.

9. In the ships are men with blue trousers and jackets ; they clamber on the ropes, and unfurl the sails. They are sailors.

10. The sailors look into the mirror-like waters, and greet the river kindly, and ask, 'Will you take us to the sea ?' The river answers, 'Yes, come with me ; I will take each and all of you.'

11. And the river carries them on his back, and the wind drives them day and night ; and soon they are near the end. They see before them a great water, as large as thousands of rivers. As far as man can see is water—this is the sea. It comes toward the river with great waves, rushing and roaring, so that he is afraid.

12. But the river says, 'Here, I bring to you the little brook that wished to travel with me, and the ships that I have carried on my back. You take them now, dear sea. I am tired, and would rest.'

## THE RIVER.—II.

glide, to flow gently.  
gleam, to shine.  
com-pel, to oblige.

shin-gle, coarse round gravel.  
spark-le, to shine.  
mer-ri-ment, gladness.

1. Down from the hills I tumble and roar  
    Leaping and laughing all day ;  
    Never once stopping until by the shore  
    I am lost in the sea far away.
2. I glide by the rushes and gleam through  
    the trees,  
    The dark rocks rise high by my side ;  
    But I care not for them, I am bound for the  
    seas,  
    And downwards I flow in full tide.
3. Jack Frost tries to bind me with his ice and  
    his frost,  
    And sometimes compels me to stay ;  
    But my old friend the sun sets me free, and  
    Jack Frost  
    In icicles fast melts away.
4. Oh, a gay careless life is mine all day  
    long,  
    As I roll over shingle and stone ;  
    I sparkle, and gurgle, and break into song,  
    With merriment rich in each tone.

## COURAGE.

ghost, a spirit.  
fool-ish, silly.

cour-age, bravery.  
fig-ures, here means shadows.

1. A little girl went to visit her aunt in the country, and had to sleep in a room by herself. She started up in the middle of the night, and saw something at the foot of the bed.

2. It had a man's head, with eyes, nose, and mouth, but it seemed so bright and light that she thought it was a ghost. She pulled the bedclothes over her head and felt as if she must scream and call her aunt.

3. But her father had told her that there are no ghosts, and that it is very foolish to be afraid of things that can do us no harm. Her mother had taught her that God loves little children and takes care of them when they do the right. These thoughts gave her courage.

4. She looked out from under the bedclothes again, and it was there still. So she jumped out of bed, walked straight up to it, and touched it.

5. It was only a figure on the wall, made by the moonlight shining through the window. Then she thought how she had seen strange forms and faces in the fire, and she saw how



easy it is to fancy strange figures by moonlight.



'So she looked out of the window.'

6. She had read about ghosts and fairies, but she knew they were not real.

So she looked out of the window at the

quiet world sleeping round her, and the moon was nearly as bright as the sun. Then she went to bed again, and soon fell fast asleep.

7. When she awoke again the moon had set, and the sun had risen. The birds were singing sweetly, and people were going to work, for it was morning. And this brave little girl said in her heart, 'I will fear no evil.'

---

### MARY'S PRIZE.

**vil-lage**, any small group of houses less than a town.  
**schol-ar**, one who goes to school.  
**caught**, here means struck.  
**star-ling**, a bird.

**gim-let**, a tool for making holes.  
**bid**, here means offered.  
**soothe**, to comfort.  
**droop-ed**, hung down.

1. All the children in the first class of the village school had been trying for the prize, which was offered for the best letter on 'kindness to animals.'

2. The prize was a penknife, with a white handle and two blades. New Year's morning brought many letters of all sorts, sizes, and colours; but the best of all was written by Mary Smith.

3. So she had the penknife handed to her, and very pleased she was, and as she was very

much liked by the other scholars, they were not sorry that she had won the prize.

When school was over Mary started for home in company with her brother Charlie.

4. As they crossed a field they met a number of boys, all talking very fast about something; and they heard one boy say, 'You hit it, fine, Joe—that stone just caught its wing.'

'Tie a string to its leg and let it hop,' said another. 'It will be such fun!'

5. 'You be quiet, Tom,' said a bigger boy. 'We'll tie a long string to it, and then set my dog Pincher to catch it as it flies.'

The *it* was a little starling which Joe held tightly in his hands.

6. It was very much frightened and hurt, and its little heart went pit-a-pat against the cruel fingers which held it so tightly.

The boy who owned the bird said—'Well, lads, who will buy? what will you give for it?'

7. One boy offered three marbles, and five brass buttons. Another some string, and part of an old gimlet. The owner of Pincher bid an old knife with a broken blade.

8. All the time the poor little bird turned its dim eyes from one face to another, giving faint chirps as it was shaken about in its cruel prison. It looked as though it would say, if it could, 'Have pity on a poor little wounded

thing that cannot help itself, and you so big and strong.'

9. The bird was handed to the owner of Pincher, and the string was being got ready for the cruel sport, when Mary ran up to the boy, and in a shaking voice said, 'Please, boy, will you let me have the bird? I will give you my knife—my *new* knife—it has two blades. See! and I'll be so very glad if you will.'

10. 'Why, little girl, what's the good of the bird to you,' said the boy, 'it is almost dead now. But you may have it for the knife if you like. But what can you want it for?'

11. 'You gave your knife for it because you want to kill,' said Mary, simply; 'I give mine because I should like the poor little thing to die quietly, or perhaps it may get better, and then I will let it fly to its home.'

12. Mary tried to laugh, but her blue eyes filled with tears; and I must say that the boys looked rather ashamed of themselves.

So Mary carried the wounded bird home, and her mother patted her on the head, and said she had done right.

13. They tied up the broken wing, and tried to soothe the soft speckled thing, that seemed to know they were pitying it.

They watched it for a long time, hoping it would recover; but the pretty head drooped,

and the dark eye glazed over; and ~~when~~ the children thought it slept, the mother said it was out of all pain now, for it was dead.

14. So they laid it tenderly in a little moss-lined grave. Charlie said, 'I will never hurt any helpless thing; will you, Mary?' and Mary, shaking her head, turned away; but there was no need for her answer.

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## DON'T KILL THE BIRDS.

joy-ous, gay, cheerful.  
chill-ing, cold.

war-ble, to sing.  
cheer-less, dull, bare.

1. Don't kill the birds! the little birds  
That sing about the door,  
Soon as the joyous spring has come,  
And chilling storms are o'er.
2. The little birds that sweetly sing!  
Oh, let them joyous live;  
And do not seek to take their life,  
Which you can never give.
3. Don't kill the birds! the pretty birds  
That play among the trees;  
'Twould make the earth a cheerless place,  
To see no more of these.

4. The little birds that fondly play,  
Do not disturb their sport ;  
But let them warble forth their songs,  
Till winter cuts them short.



5. Don't kill the birds ! the happy birds  
That cheer the field and grove ;  
Such harmless things to look upon,  
They claim our warmest love.

## A BRAVE GIRL.

light-house, a house with a	steer, to guide.
light at the top to guide	cliff, a high steep rock.
sailors at sea.	plun-der, to rob.

1. Before lighthouses were so common on the coasts of England, men often showed lights on dark nights to mislead sailors and cause them to wreck their ships.

2. Sometimes these bad men would tie a cow's foot to its horns so that it could only walk very slowly, and hang a lantern on its horns.

3. As the cow moved about on the cliff near the shore, the sailors would think the lantern was the light of another ship, and so would come too near land.

4. When a ship came near the shore, these wreckers would rob the sailors, and kill them. They would steal anything from the ship that they could, and many of them lived by plunder and wrecking.

5. One night a great ship had to pass a part of the coast where a new lighthouse had been built. The wreckers thought that if the light could be put out, the sailors would miss their way, and the ship could then be *plundered*.

6. So they met the keeper of the lighthouse an hour or two before dark, and would not let him go to light the lamp. They



kept him a prisoner, and promised to let him go next morning.

7. But the lighthouse-keeper had a daughter, a brave girl, who had been left alone in the lighthouse. As it grew dark, and her



father did not return, she thought she would try to light the great lamp herself.

8. But it was a long way up the tower to the lantern-room. The winding stairs were narrow and dark, and she had nothing but a small oil lamp in her hand to show her the way.

9. The wind roared outside, and the waves came dashing against the walls of the light-house. But she went straight up to the top of the tower, and climbed the ladder to reach the great lamp at the top.

10. And just as she lighted the lamp, the great ship was in sight, and the sailors saw the light, and steered the ship safely. Then she went downstairs again to her own room, and spent a sad night by herself.

11. Next morning when her father came home, he told her how the wreckers had kept him all night to prevent the lantern being lighted.

12. Then he took her in his arms and kissed her, and said: 'You are a brave little girl for lighting the lamp yourself, and you have saved that ship and all those sailors from falling into the hands of the wreckers.'

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## THE WONDERFUL CAT.

## PART I.

leg-a-cy, that which is left to  
one by will.

war-ren, a piece of ground  
for preserving rabbits.

ogre, a man-eater.

bran, husks of corn.

ac-ous-tom-ed, in the habit of.

1. Once upon a time there was a miller who had three sons. When he was dying, he left each of them a legacy. To his eldest son he left his mill; to the second, his ass; and to the youngest, his cat.

2. The poor boy was very sad when he found he had nothing but a cat. But to his great surprise Puss jumped upon the table, and said in a friendly manner, 'Do not be sad, my dear master: only buy me a pair of boots and a bag, and I will provide for you and myself.'

3. So the miller's son, who had a shilling or two in his pocket, bought a smart pair of boots and a bag, and gave them to Puss.

4. Puss took the bag, and put some bran into it, and went to a rabbit-warren. She opened the mouth of the bag, and left it near a rabbit-hole, while she hid in a hedge, with the string of the bag in one of her paws.

5. A foolish young rabbit jumped into the bag to eat the bran. Puss pulled the string, and the rabbit was caught.

6. Puss now went to the king's palace, saw the king, bowed low, and laid the rabbit at his feet: 'Please your Majesty, my master, the Marquis of Carrabas, has sent you a rabbit from his warren, as a mark of respect.'

7. The king was much pleased, and said, 'I am much obliged to your master; take the rabbit to the cook; and here is half-a-crown for your trouble.'

8. From this time Puss took a rabbit daily to the king, till his Majesty became well acquainted with the name of the Marquis of Carrabas, and with his wonderful cat.

9. There was a very rich and cruel giant living in that country, who was accustomed to kill men and eat them. He was called an ogre. One day Puss called upon him, and the giant was quite amazed to hear a cat talk.

10. 'Is it true, most wonderful Ogre,' said the cat, 'that you can change yourself into any animal you please?' 'Quite true,' said the giant, 'as you shall see.' And he at once changed himself into a lion, and roared so terribly, that the cat was quite frightened.

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11. Then the ogre turned back into a giant, and laughed at the cat's alarm.

'It was very terrible to see you,' said the cat, 'and I must own that I quaked with fear.'

12. 'But you are of such a great size, that I do not wonder you could turn into a lion. But I should be very much surprised if you could turn into some small beast.'

13. The ogre said he could do it in a moment, and asked the cat to say what animal she would like him to be. So Puss at once said, 'It would seem very wonderful to me, if you could turn yourself into a little mouse.'

14. In a moment the ogre turned from a giant to a mouse. And in a moment more the mouse was in the cat's mouth. So there was an end of the terrible ogre.

15. And there was his castle and all his fine park without an owner. So Puss said to herself, 'That castle and park shall belong to my master.' And now you shall see how she brought it to pass.

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## THE WONDERFUL CAT.

## PART II.

ma-jes-ty, a title given to a king or queen.		re-fresh-ment, food. di-rect-ed, told.
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1. Puss ran back to her master, and said, 'Come and bathe in the river; and when the king passes, do exactly as I tell you.' The miller's son obeyed the cat, undressed, and jumped into the water. Puss then ran off with his clothes, and hid them among the bushes.

2. By and by the king came that way, and Puss cried out, 'Help! help!' The king stopped his carriage, and the cat informed him, that while his master was bathing some one had run off with his clothes.

3. Luckily, the king had an extra suit with him. This he sent to the cat's master. Now the king thought her master was the Marquis of Carrabas. So he asked him to take a seat in his carriage, and offered to drive him home.

4. Puss directed the coachman to drive to the ogre's castle, and then she went on before. Coming to some reapers in a field, she said, 'If the king asks you whose fields these are, you must say, "They belong to the Marquis of Carrabas;" or you shall all be chopped as small as mince-meat.'

5. The men promised to obey. Then Puss ran on, and said the same thing to the shepherds, to the woodmen, and to all the people on the lands of the ogre. And they all promised to do as they were told.

6. At last Puss came to the ogre's castle. She called all the servants together, and told them she had killed the giant.

7. Then she said, 'If you do not consent to take the Marquis of Carrabas as your master, you shall all be chopped as small as mince-meat.' They were all glad to hear the ogre was dead, and promised to have the marquis for their master.

8. The king now drove up to the castle gate. Puss went out, and asked his Majesty to enter and take some refreshment. The king consented. A rich feast was ready, and his Majesty was much pleased with all he saw.

9. The king promised the marquis to bring his daughter next time to see the castle.

The miller's son was now the Marquis of Carrabas, and the owner of a fine castle and grounds.

10. So after some time he married the princess. They lived happily together in the ogre's castle; and the most faithful servant they had was 'The Wonderful Cat.'

## THE LOST KITTEN.

clo-ver, a kind of grass in  
which the leaf appears to  
be cut in three.

cun-ning, artful, knowing.  
rack-et, here means noise.

at-tic, a small room at the top  
of the house next the  
roof.

trun-dle, to roll.  
tar-ry, to stay.



1. Oh, where is my kitten,  
my little grey kit-  
ten ?  
I've hunted the house  
all around :  
I've looked in the cradle,  
and under the  
table ;  
But nowhere can Kitty  
be found.
2. I've hunted the clover and flower-beds  
over ;  
I peeped in the old wooden spout :  
I went to the wood-pile, and stayed there a  
good while ;  
But never my Kitty came out.
3. I've been in the attic and made a great  
racket ;  
I peeped into little Dick's bed :  
I've looked in the stable, as much as I'm  
able ;  
I hunted the wood-house and shed.

1. I called little Rover, to hunt the field over,  
And help find my Kitty for me ;  
No dog could be kinder, but he couldn't find  
her :  
Oh, where can my poor Kitty be ?
2. I saw a boy trundle away a small bundle,  
And drop it down into the brook—  
Could that be my Kitty, so cunning and  
pretty ?  
I think I will run there and look.
3. For there is no knowing what people are  
throwing,  
When things are tied up in a sack :  
Whatever they carry, not long do they  
tarry,  
And always they come empty back !





## HONESTY.

**mor-sel**, a small piece.  
**fru-gal**, scanty.  
**por-tion**, a part.  
**pro-bab-ly**, very likely.

**ig-nor-ance**, not knowing.  
**glit-ter-ing**, shining.  
**flax**, a plant of which linen is made.

1. One evening a poor man and his son, a little boy, sat by the wayside, near the gate of an old town in Germany. The father took a loaf of bread, which he had bought in the town, and broke it, and gave the half to his boy.

2. 'Not so, father,' said the boy, 'I shall not eat until after you. You have been working hard all day for small wages to support me, and you must be very hungry. I shall wait till you have done.'

3. 'You speak kindly, my son,' replied the pleased father; 'your love to me does me more good than my food; and those eyes of yours remind me of your dear mother who has left us, and who told you to love me as she had done.'

4. 'Indeed, my boy, you have been a great strength and comfort to me; but now that I have eaten the first morsel to please you it is your turn to eat.'

5. 'Thank you, father, but break this piece in two, and take you a little more, for you see

the loaf is not large, and you require much more than I do.'

6. 'I shall divide the loaf for you, my boy, but eat it I shall not. I have enough; and let us thank God for His great goodness in giving us food, and in giving us what is better still—cheerful and contented hearts!'

7. The father and son thanked God, and then began to cut the loaf in pieces to begin together their frugal meal.

But as they cut one portion of the loaf there fell out several large pieces of gold of great value.

8. The little boy gave a shout of joy, and was springing forward to grasp the unexpected treasure, when he was pulled back by his father.

'My son, my son!' he cried, 'do not touch that money; it is not ours.' 'But whose is it, father, if it is not ours?'

9. 'I know not as yet to whom it belongs, but probably it was put there by the baker through some mistake. We must inquire; run!'

'But, father,' said the boy, 'you are poor and needy, and you have bought the loaf, and then the baker may tell a lie'——

10. 'I will not listen to you, my boy; I bought the loaf, but I did not buy the gold in it. If the baker sold it to me in ignorance,

I shall not be so dishonest as to take advantage of him.

11. 'Run to the baker, and bring him here; and I shall watch the gold until he comes.' So the boy ran for the baker.

12. 'Brother workman,' said the old man, 'you have made some mistake, and almost lost your money;' and he showed the baker the gold, and told him how it had been found. 'Is it thine?' asked the father; 'if it is, take it away.'

13. 'My father is very poor,' said the boy. 'Silence, my child; put me not to shame by thy complaints. I am glad we have saved this man from losing his money.'

14. The baker had been gazing first upon the honest father and his eager boy, and then upon the gold which lay glittering upon the green turf.

15. 'Thou art, indeed, an honest fellow,' said the baker; 'and my neighbour David, the flax-dresser, spoke but the truth when he said thou wert the most honest man in our town.'

16. 'Now, I shall tell thee about the gold. A stranger came to my shop three days ago and gave me that loaf, and told me to sell it cheaply, or give it away, to the most honest, but poor man whom I knew in the city.'

17. 'I told David to send thee to me as a

customer this morning; and as thou wouldst not take the loaf for nothing I sold it to thee, as thou knowest, for the last pence in thy purse; and the loaf with all its treasure is thine; and God grant thee a blessing with it.'

18. The poor father bent his head to the ground, while the tears fell from his eyes. His boy ran and put his arms about his neck, and said, 'I shall, like you, my father, always trust in God, and do what is right; for I am sure it will never put us to shame.'

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## THE DOG.

com-pan-i-on, one who is  
often with us, a friend.  
chase, to hunt.  
af-fec-tion, love.  
ef-fort, struggle.  
fierce, savage.

ren-der-ed, given.  
snow-drift, a bank of snow.  
sense-less, without feeling.  
New-found-land, a large city  
island on the east coast of  
N. America.

1. Of all animals the dog is perhaps the one which we know the best, and of which we are the fondest. He seems meant to be the companion of man, whom he serves in a thousand ways.

2. He guards his house, he helps him in the chase, he takes care of his flocks, and he cheers him by the affection which he is always ready to show. No animal has more sense than the dog; and at times he seems to understand

what is said to him by his master as well as a child would do.

3. All dogs are not alike ; some are much larger than others. Some have long hair, and



Newfoundland Dog.

others short. Some are strong and fierce, like the mastiff and the bull-dog ; others very swift of foot, like the greyhound, which is used to chase the hare. One of the largest and finest dogs we have is the Newfoundland dog.

4. Many stories are told of the way in which these dogs have saved persons from drowning. They are also very sensible, and can be taught to do almost anything they are told.

5. Thus, one dog was trained by his master to go every morning to the baker's shop and bring home the bread, which was tied up in a cloth, the ends of which the dog carried in his mouth.

6. Another, named Dandie, would carry a penny to the shop and lay it on the counter; when the baker, who knew what he wanted, would give him a roll in exchange.

7. His master's friends were so pleased with this trick that they would often give the dog a penny, that they might amuse themselves by seeing him buy his bread.

8. Thus it sometimes happened that Dandie had many pence given him the same day. But he was wise enough to know that he did not want more than one roll to eat at a time, so he hid his money in an old saw-pit, and only took a penny out whenever he wanted a roll.

9. There are other dogs, besides those of Newfoundland, who have often been the means of saving the lives of men. The shepherd's dog has more than once rendered the same service to his master.

10. An English farmer having fallen senseless in the midst of a severe snow-storm, his dog

scratched the snow away from him, and then rolled himself on his breast, thus keeping warmth enough in his body to save his life.



Dogs of Mount St. Bernard.

In the morning the man and dog were both found, and the farmer's life was saved.

11. But the dogs that are most famous for the courage which they show in saving the

lives of men are the dogs of Mount St. Bernard. This is a high mountain in Switzerland, the road across which is always covered with snow.

12. These dogs are trained to seek in the snow for any persons who may have fallen down the rocks, or who have lost their way. Sometimes they lead their owners to the spot where some poor man is buried beneath the snow-drifts ; sometimes they themselves contrive to uncover him.

13. More than once they have been found lying on their senseless bodies ; and one story is told of a dog that found a little child in a half-frozen state, brought him to his senses by licking him, and then induced the child to tie himself round his body. In this way he brought his burden safely home.

14. One of these dogs saved the lives of no fewer than forty persons, and was given a silver medal, as a badge of honour, which was always tied round his neck. He was killed at last in the noble effort to guide a poor peasant home to his hut. A great mass of snow fell from the top of the mountain, and both the man and the dog were buried under it.

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## THE CHOICE OF TRADES.

sheaves, bundles of corn.

plane, a tool for smoothing boards.

anvil, an iron block on which smiths hammer their work.

trowel, a tool used in spreading mortar.

car-pen-ter, a worker in wood used in buildings, ships, furniture, &c.

last, a piece of wood shaped like the foot, on which boots and shoes are made.

pic-tures, paintings or drawings.

### FIRST BOY.

1. When I'm a man—a man—  
I'll be a farmer, if I can ;  
I'll plough the ground, and the seed I'll sow ;



- I'll reap the grain, and the grass I'll mow ;  
I'll bind the sheaves, and I'll rake the hay,  
And pitch it up in the mow away,  
When I'm a man.

## SECOND BOY.

2. When I'm a man,  
I'll be a carpenter, if I can ;  
I'll plane like *this*, and I'll hammer *so* !  
And this is the way my saw shall go :  
I'll make bird-houses and boxes and boats,  
And a ship that shall race every vessel that floats  
When I'm a man.

## THIRD BOY.

3. When I'm a man,  
A blacksmith I'll be, if I can :  
Clang, clang, clang, shall my anvil ring ;



- And this is the way the blows I'll swing :  
I'll shoe your horse, sir, neat and tight ;  
Then I'll trot down the lane, to see if 'tis right,  
When I'm a man.

## FOURTH BOY.

4. When I'm a man,  
A mason I'll be, if I can ;  
I'll lay a brick this way, and lay one that ;  
Then take my trowel and smooth them flat :  
Great chimneys I'll make ; I think I'll be able  
To build one as high as the Tower of Babel,  
When I'm a man.

## FIFTH BOY.

5. When I'm a man,  
I'll be a shoemaker, if I can ;  
I'll sit on a bench, with my last held so,  
And in and out shall my needle go :  
I'll sew so strong that my work shall wear,  
Till nothing is left but my stitches there,  
When I'm a man.

## SIXTH BOY.

6. When I'm a man,  
A printer I'll be, if I can ;  
I'll make pretty books, with pictures all through ;  
And papers I'll print, and send them to you :  
I'll have the first reading—oh, won't it be fun  
To read all the stories before they are done,  
When I'm a man ?

## TOGETHER.

7. When we are men,  
 We hope we shall do great things ; and then,  
 Whatever we do, this thing we'll say,  
 We'll do our work in the very best way :  
 And you shall see, if you know us then,  
 We'll be good and honest and useful men,  
 When we are men.

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## A STRANGE PLAYFELLOW.

<b>Ger-man-y</b> , a large country in Europe.	<b>sud-den-ly</b> , secretly, without being expected.
<b>de-light-ed</b> , much pleased.	<b>in-vi-ta-tion</b> , being asked.
<b>per-form-ance</b> , acting, tricks done by the bear.	<b>shag-gy</b> , covered with rough hair or wool.
<b>re-fresh-ment</b> , food and drink.	<b>ter-ri-ble</b> , fearful.
<b>court-yard</b> , an enclosed space.	<b>hor-ror</b> , very great fear.
	<b>ap-pear-ed</b> , was seen.

1. One day there came into a village in Germany a man leading a tame bear with a chain. The news flew from mouth to mouth that a dancing-bear was going to perform.

2. Crowds of children soon gathered round the strange creature, and were delighted when the man began to beat the drum, and the bear stood up on his hind-legs and began to dance.

3. When the performance was over, the man went for refreshment to the village inn, and

having tied up the bear in the courtyard, sat down in the tap-room to eat his dinner.

4. Now in the room upstairs the landlady's three children were playing about. Tramp, tramp, tramp! was suddenly heard on the stairs; and at every step clank, clank, clank!

5. What a heavy foot! Who can it be? The door flew open, and a strange visitor stood in the doorway. Without waiting for an invitation the huge shaggy beast entered the room.

6. Tired of waiting so long in the yard alone, Bruin had come to look for his master. Being fond of company he was pleased to see the children. I cannot say they were pleased to see him.

7. At first, they were in a terrible fright, and ran with a wild scream into the furthest corner. Little Philip ran under the table, and peeped out from under the leaves.

8. The little fellow happened to have a few apples in his pocket; so he rolled one towards the bear to make friends with him. Bruin looked quite pleased, and after eating the apple held out his paw for another. In this way the bear and the children became quite friendly.

9. Then Philip, who had seen the bear dance on the village green, took up his drum and began to beat with might and main. The bear at once stood up, and began to beat



**"Away they went again, tramp, tramp."**

the time with his feet. He was a clumsy dancer, but the children were delighted to see him.

10. It would be fine fun to play soldiers, thought Philip. So he gave the word to his two little brothers to 'shoulder arms.' Up went their little guns to their shoulders, and around the room they marched, with Philip at their head beating the drum. Bruin fell in at the rear and tramped round with the rest.

11. 'Let us find him a gun,' said Philip. 'Here is a broom with a long handle—that will do nicely.' Their strange playmate took the broom and held it tight and firm like any soldier. Away they went again, tramp, tramp—Philip at their head with his drum.

12. They were just in the heart of the fun, when the door opened and the boys' mother entered. You should have seen her—speechless with terror, her cheeks white as a sheet, holding up her hands in horror.

13. But the youngest little fellow only nodded to his mother with a look of great joy, and said, 'Mother, we are only playing at soldiers.'

Just then the master of the bear appeared, and led him away to the next village, to the great grief of his three little playmates.

## THE DISCONTENTED HUSBAND.

**dis-con-tent-ed**, unhappy.**sur-ly**, sour-tempered, cross.**up-roar**, great noise.**scythe**, a long curved steel blade used for cutting grass.**mow-er**, one who cuts grass.**rout-ing**, upsetting, putting in disorder.**thatch-ed**, roofed with straw.**brink**, edge.**mead-ow**, grass land, a field.

1. There was once a man who was so cross and surly that he thought his wife never did anything right in the house. So one evening—it was at haymaking time—he came home scolding, and grumbling, and making a great uproar.

2. ‘Dear husband, don’t be so angry,’ said his wife. ‘I have been thinking, and I have thought of a capital plan. To-morrow let us change work. I’ll go out with the mowers and mow, and you shall stay at home and mind the house.’

3. The husband thought that would do very well. He was quite willing, he said.

So, early next morning, the wife took a scythe and went out into the hay-field with the mowers, and began to mow; but the man was to mind the house, and to do the work at home.

4. First of all, he wanted to churn the butter; but when he had churned a while he found it very dry work, and he got thirsty.



and went down to the cellar to tap a barrel of ale.

5. When he had just knocked in the bung, and was putting the tap into the cask, he heard overhead the pig come trotting into the kitchen.

6. Then off he ran up the cellar steps, with the tap in his hand, as fast as he could, to look after the pig, lest it should upset the churn; but when he got up and saw the pig had already knocked the churn over, and stood there routing and grunting amongst the cream, which was running all over the floor, he got so wild with rage that he quite forgot the ale-barrel, and ran at the pig as hard as he could.

7. He caught it, too, just as it ran out of doors, and gave it such a kick, that it lay for dead on the spot. All at once he remembered he had the tap in his hand; but when he got down to the cellar, every drop of ale had run out of the cask.

8. Then he went into the dairy, and found enough cream left to fill the churn again, and so he began to churn, for they must have butter.

9. When he had churned for some time, he remembered that their milking-cow was still shut up in the cow-house, and had not had anything to eat or a drop to drink all the

morning, though the sun was high in the heavens.

10. Then all at once he thought it was too far to take her down to the meadow, so he would just get her up to feed on the house-top; for the house, you must know, was thatched with sods, and a fine crop of grass was growing there.

11. Now their house lay close up against a steep down, and he thought if he laid a plank across to the thatch at the back, he'd easily get the cow up.

12. Yet he could not leave the churn, for there was the little baby crawling on the floor; 'and if I leave,' he thought, 'the child is sure to upset the churn.'

13. So he took the churn on his back, and went out with it; but then he thought he had better first water the cow before he turned her out on the thatch.

14. So he took up a bucket to draw water out of the well; but as he stooped down at the well's brink, all the cream ran out of the churn over his shoulders, and so down into the well.

15. Now it was near dinner-time, and he had not yet got even the butter; so he thought he had best boil the porridge, and he filled the pot with water, and hung it by a chain over the fire.

16. When he had done that, he thought the cow might perhaps fall off the thatch and break her legs or her neck.

So he got up on the house to tie her up.

17. One end of the rope he made fast to the cow's neck, and the other he slipped down the wide chimney, and tied round his own thigh; and he had to make haste, for the water now began to boil in the pot, and he had still to grind the oatmeal.

18. So he began to grind away; but while he was hard at it, down fell the cow off the house-top after all, and as she fell she dragged the man up the chimney by the rope.

19. There he stuck fast; and as for the cow, she hung half-way down between the thatch and the ground—for she could get neither down nor up.

20. And now the wife had waited long for her husband to come and call them home to dinner. At last she thought she had waited long enough, and went home. But when she got there and saw the cow hanging in such an ugly place, she ran up and cut the rope in two with her scythe.

21. As she did this, down came her husband out of the chimney; and so, when his old dame came inside the kitchen, there she found him standing on his head in the porridge-pot.

## JOHN GRUMLEY.

vow-ed, promised.

plough, a machine for cutting  
and breaking the earth.

speck-led, spotted.

a-stray, lost.

spool, a kind of reel.

win-ced, started back sud-  
denly.

1. John Grumley vowed by the light of the  
moon,  
And the green leaves on the tree,  
That he could do more work in one day  
Than his wife could do in three !
2. 'With all my heart,' the old dame said ;  
'And if you will allow,  
You here shall stay at home to-day,  
And I'll go mind the plough.
3. 'But you must milk the tiny cow,  
Lest she should go quite dry ;  
And you must feed the little pigs  
That are within the sty.
4. 'And you must watch the speckled hen,  
Lest she should go astray ;  
And not forget the spool of yarn  
That I spin every day.'
5. Then the old woman took the stick in her  
hand,  
And went to follow the plough ;  
The old man put the pail on his head,  
And went to milk the cow.

6. But Tiny she winced, and Tiny she  
    flinched,  
    And Tiny she tossed her nose ;  
    And Tiny gave him a kick on the shin  
    Till the blood ran down to his toes.
7. And a ' Ho, Tiny ! ' and a ' So, Tiny !  
    Pretty little cow, stand still !  
    And if ever I milk you again,' he said,  
    ' It shall be against my will.'
8. And then he went to feed the pigs  
    That were within the sty ;  
    He knocked his nose against the shed,  
    And caused the blood to fly.
9. And then he watched the speckled hen,  
    Lest she should go astray ;  
    But he quite forgot the spool of yarn  
    That his wife span every day.
10. And when the old woman came home at  
    night,  
    He said he could plainly see  
    That his wife could do more work in a day  
    Than he could do in three !





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